

Senator Fonfara, Representative Horn and members of the Finance Committee,

I oppose H.B. 5653 and I urge the Committee to as well.

The idea of taxing a small segment of the population to fund a proposed solution to a societal problem is manifestly unjust. In order to buy ammunition in the state of Connecticut you must possess either a state issued ammunition certificate, long gun certification or permit to carry a pistol or revolver. In each case an extensive background check has been performed to obtain of these. Any disqualifying crime results in the revocation of such permit. Anyone buying ammunition is BY DEFINITION not a criminal. Criminals on the other hand overwhelmingly obtain both weapons and ammunition by theft or illegal purchase, thereby avoiding such a tax.

We often hear analogies to cars when it comes to justification of gun control bills. To charge law-abiding gun owners purchasing ammunition a special tax to pay for crime they don't commit is akin to assessing a tax on drivers of automobiles, yet exempting anyone with a DUI! It would be like taxing auto mechanics to fight theft of catalytic converters just because thieves use the same tools as auto mechanics.

While the funding of community-based violence prevention programs may well be a worthy endeavor, the idea of funding that on the backs of the 100s of thousands of Connecticut sportsmen, competitive shooters and gun owners is the epitome of the misdirected, biased and frankly, spiteful approach to gun violence in Connecticut.

As a competition shooter in both shotgun and pistol disciplines, I shoot thousands of rounds each year. Having competed with a shotgun for over 50 years, I have literally been in the immediate vicinity of millions of rounds being discharged and never once have I witnessed an accident, much less an act of violence.

There are also some serious practical problems with this bill, but let me point out just one. Everyone on both sides of the gun control debate seems to agree that those employing firearms for self-defense need to be proficient in their use. And yet here is a proposal to make ammunition, and thus training, less obtainable, particularly to those of a lower economic standing.

I urge you to dismiss this bill and any similar bills with prejudice.

Thank you for your time

Tom Maloney

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